

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

APPROPRIATIONS—COMMERCE/JUSTICE/STATE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, State, and the Judiciary approved for full committee consideration an original bill making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and related agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999.

APPROPRIATIONS—INTERIOR

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Interior and Related Agencies approved for full committee consideration an original bill making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Armed Services: Committee concluded hearings on the nominations of Gen. Richard B. Myers, USAF, to be Commander-in-Chief, United States Space Command, Vice Adm. Richard W. Mies, USN, to be Commander-in-Chief, United States Strategic Command, and Lt. Gen. Charles T. Robertson, Jr., USAF, to be Commander-in-Chief, United States Transportation Command and Commander, Air Mobility Command, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

PUERTO RICO

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Committee concluded oversight hearings to examine certain implications with regard to the future of Puerto Rico's political status should that country choose independence from the United States and become a sovereign nation, including the status of United States citizenship of persons born in and residing in Puerto Rico, and trade and tariff implications, after receiving testimony from Johnny H. Gillian, Senior Specialist, American Constitutional Law, Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress; Richard L. Thornburgh, Kirkpatrick and Lockhart, former United States Attorney General, and Gregory T. Nojeim, American Civil Liberties Union, both of Washington, D.C.; and Manuel Rodriguez-Orellana, Puerto Rican Independence Party, Emilio Soler Mari, Accion Democratica Puertorriquena, Luis Vega-Ramos, PROELA, and Juan M. Garcia Passalacqua all of San Juan, Puerto Rico.

WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Subcommittee on Transportation and Infrastructure con-

cluded hearings on S. 2131, to authorize funds for the conservation and development of water and related resources, and to authorize the Secretary of the Army to construct various projects for improvements to rivers and harbors of the United States, after receiving testimony from Joseph W. Westphal, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works; Michael Davis, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works; Maj. Gen. Russell L. Fuhrman, Director of Civil Works for the Army Corps of Engineers; Mayor Kenneth E. Pringle, Borough of Belmar, New Jersey; Councilwoman Louisa M. Strayhorn, City of Virginia Beach, Virginia, on behalf of the Kempsville Borough; Grover Fugate, Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council, Wakefield; Kurt J. Nagle, American Association of Port Authorities, Alexandria, Virginia; Scott C. Faber, American Rivers, Washington, D.C.; and Stephen H. Higgins, Broward County Department of Natural Resource Protection, Broward County, Florida, on behalf of the American Coastal Coalition.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S. 1344, to target assistance to support the economic and political independence of the countries of South Caucasus and Central Asia, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. Con. Res. 97, expressing the sense of Congress concerning the human rights and humanitarian situation facing the women and girls of Afghanistan, with amendments;

S. Res. 237, expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the situation in Indonesia and East Timor;

S. Res. 240, expressing the sense of the Senate with respect to democracy and human rights in the Lao People's Democratic Republic, with amendments;

Montreal Protocol No. 4 to Amend the Convention for the Unification of Certain Rules Relating to International Carriage by Air signed at Warsaw on October 12, 1929, as amended by the Protocol done at The Hague on September 8, 1955 (Ex. B, 95th Cong. 1st sess.), with one declaration and two provisos;

Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions, adopted at Paris on November 21, 1997, by a conference held under the auspices of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. Convention signed in Paris on December 17, 1997, by the United States and 32 other nations (Treaty Doc. 105-43), with one understanding, one declaration, and three provisos; and

The nominations of Shirley Elizabeth Barnes, of New York, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Madagascar, William Davis Clarke, of Maryland, to be Ambassador to the State of Eritrea, Paul L. Cejas, of Florida, to be Ambassador to Belgium, Jeffrey Davidow, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to Mexico, Vivian Lowery Derryck, of Ohio, to be Assistant Administrator for Africa, Agency for International Development, Eric S. Edelman, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Finland, Nancy Halliday Ely Raphel, of the District of Columbia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Slovenia, George Williford Boyce Haley, of Maryland, to be Ambassador to the Republic of The Gambia, Michael Craig Lemmon, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Armenia, John O'Leary, of Maine, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Chile, Rudolf Vilem Perina, of California, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Moldova, Katherine Hubay Peterson, of California, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Lesotho, Edward L. Romero, of New Mexico, to be Ambassador to Spain, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to Andorra, Cynthia Perrin Schneider, of Maryland, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Nancy E. Soderberg, of the District of Columbia, to be Alternate Representative of the United States for Special Political Affairs in the United Nations, with the rank of Ambassador, and to be an Alternate Representative of the United States to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations during her tenure of service as Alternate Representative of the United States for Special Political Affairs in the United Nations, Charles Richard Stith, of Massachusetts, to be Ambassador to the United Republic of

Tanzania, Kenneth Spencer Yalowitz, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Georgia, and a Foreign Service Officer Promotion list (John M. O'Keefe) received in the Senate on September 3, 1997.

Also, committee began mark up of S. Res. 238, expressing the sense of the Senate regarding human rights conditions in China and Tibet, but did not complete action thereon and recessed subject to call.

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee held hearings on S. 2148, to protect religious liberty by extending the Religious Freedom Restoration Act's rule of protection to the full extent of Congress's statutory authority and by assisting the Courts in enforcing the free exercise clause of the Constitution by enacting enforcement measures under the 14th Amendment by requiring the government to disprove violations of constitutional rights, receiving testimony from Rabbi David Zwiebel, Agudath Israel of America, Marci A. Hamilton, Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law/Yeshiva University, and Christopher L. Eisgruber, New York University School of Law, all of New York, New York; Dallin H. Oaks, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, and Michael W. McConnell, University of Utah College of Law, both of Salt Lake City, Utah; Richard D. Land, Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, Nashville, Tennessee; Elliot M. Minberg, People for the American Way, Washington, D.C.; and Douglas Laycock, University of Texas at Austin School of Law.

Hearings were recessed subject to call.